

September 28, 2006 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Lt. Governor Presents Governor's Awards for Excellence in Affordable Housing at Statewide Conference

Yesterday Lt. Governor Becky Skillman honored two organizations for their impact on affordable housing at the Statewide Conference on Affordable Housing and Community Economic Development. Governor's Awards for Excellence in Affordable Housing were presented to Providence Housing Corporation of West Terre Haute and Partners in Housing Development Corporation (PIHDC) on Indianapolis' East Side.

Each year the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) recognizes two organizations at its statewide conference. This year, Providence Housing Corporation received the Rural Project Excellence Award for Providence Place, an affordable housing development located in West Terre Haute. PIHDC received the Urban Project Excellence Award for their Colonial Park Apartments property.

"This statewide conference is about growing Indiana's economy through affordable housing anchored in stable communities," said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, who serves as chair of IHCDA and the Interagency Council on the Homeless. "Both of these organizations deserve the Governor's Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing for their exceptional contributions to the communities they serve."

Providence Housing Corporation was established in 1999 in response to a housing needs assessment in West Terre Haute. In order to provide a much-needed affordable housing option for seniors and families, Providence Housing Corporation developed a twenty-acre affordable housing development called Providence Place. This development consists of

two-bedroom apartments for senior citizens with limited incomes and three-bedroom single family homes for first-time homebuyers with low to moderate incomes. Through Providence Place, Providence Housing Corporation offers access to previously unavailable housing options in West Terre Haute.

"Providence Place is truly a collaborative effort," said Sister Barbara Zeller of Providence Housing Corporation. "We would not be able to provide this affordable housing opportunity to West Terre Haute if it were not for our partners who have mentored us through the process and supported us financially."

Partners In Housing Development Corporation was recognized for their transformation of the seventy-year-old apartments into safe, affordable housing units for low-income individuals. The Colonial Park Apartments were created as a solution to the lack of affordable rental housing in the Indianapolis area. This 106-unit apartment complex on Indianapolis' East Side provides affordable housing, as well as on-site resources to prevent reoccurring homelessness, such as on-site case managers, on-site property managers and community life coordinators.

"This housing complex addresses the Blueprint to End Homelessness and offers a great service to the Indianapolis community," said Frank Hagaman, President, Partners In Housing Development Corporation. "The fact that we received recognition is just icing on the cake of this outstanding project."

The winners were selected by a panel of judges with expertise in the housing and community economic development fields. Nominees were judged based upon their impact, initiative, collaboration, and financial soundness and creativity in furthering the community economic development movement in Indiana. The Great Lakes Capital Fund recognized the winners with \$500 awards.

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The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's (IHCDA) mission is for every Hoosier to have the opportunity to live in safe, affordable, good-quality housing in economically stable communities. IHCDA believes that growing Indiana's economy starts at home. For more information, go to www.indianahousing.org.